

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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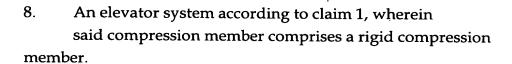
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1. An elevator system comprising an elevator assembly suspended by elevator ropes having ends suspended with respect to a rigid structure; and a compression member positioned with respect to said rigid structure in such a manner so as to counter resultant forces applied to said rigid structure due to a vertical load.

- 2. An elevator system according to claim 1, wherein said resultant forces include moment forces and inwardly-directed, generally horizontal tension forces.
- 3. An elevator system according to claim 1, wherein said compression member is generally horizontally aligned.
- 4. An elevator system according to claim 1, further comprising
 20 mounting brackets for attaching said elevator assembly to said rigid structure.
 - 5. An elevator system according to claim 4, wherein said compression member is positioned between said mounting brackets.
 - 6. An elevator system according to claim 5, wherein said mounting brackets are positioned on opposite sides of said elevator assembly.

7. An elevator system according to claim 4, wherein said elevator rope ends are suspended by said mounting

brackets.



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- 9. An elevator system according to claim 1, wherein said vertical load is attributable to said elevator car.
- 10. An elevator system according to claim 1, wherein said elevator assembly further comprises a pair of elevator guide rails having said compression member located therebetween.

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- 11/ A method of countering load reaction forces in a rigid structure caused by a vertical load attributable to an elevator assembly suspended from said rigid structure, said method comprising providing a compression member; and positioning said compression member between points on said rigid structure from which said elevator assembly is suspended.
- A method according to claim 11, wherein said compression member is positioned generally horizontally.
- 13. A method according to claim 11, wherein said compression member is positioned between bracket structures that attach elevator rope ends to said rigid structure.

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